

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09065 291859Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 EURE-00 OES-07

DLOS-09 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 /085 W

-----007241 291907Z /50

P 291849Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1156

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, EEC, FG

SUBJECT: US FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 7531, (B) BRUSSELS 7167, (C) EC BRUSSELS

5032, (D) EC BRUSSELS 137, (E) BRUSSELS 8443

1. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY FISHERY OFFICIAL (JANSSEN) INFORMED MISSION OFFICER JULY 28 THAT LICENSES TO BE ISSUED BY THE GOB FOR US VESSELS OPERATING IN THE FRENCH GUIANA SHRIMP FISHERY WOULD BE VALID ONLY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1977. MISSION OFFICER PROTESTED THAT IT WAS USG'S CLEAR UNDERSTANDING FROM DISCUSSION WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS AND FROM READING OF EC REGULATIONS GOVERNING FRENCH GUIANA SHRIMP FISHERY (REFTELS B, C, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 09065 291859Z

D) THAT LICENSES FOR U.S. VESSELS WOULD BE VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1977. JANSSEN INDICATED THAT HE HAD NO LATITUDE IN THIS MATTER, SINCE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET AND EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH THAT LICENSES ISSUED BY THE GOB WOULD BE VALID ONLY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, WHEN THE GOB WILL RELINQUISH FORMAL LICENSING AUTHORITY TO THE COMMISSION.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH COMMISSION FISHERY OFFICIAL MARCUSSEN, MISSION OFFICER REPEATED ARGUMENT IN PARA 1 ABOVE, RECALLED MARCUSSEN'S PREVIOUS ASSURANCE (PARA 4-B REFTEL B) THAT LICENSES WOULD BE VALID UNTIL END OF YEAR AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE INCONVENIENCE OF HAVING TO REPEAT LICENSING PROCEDURE IN SEPTEMBER. MARCUSSEN SAID HE COULD NOT RECALL HAVING GIVEN SUCH ASSURANCE AND INDICATED THAT HIS VIEW WAS THAT LICENSES SHOULD BE VALID ONLY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30. HE SAID THAT COMMISSION WOULD, NEVERTHELESS, ATTEMPT TO EXPEDITE ISSUANCE PROCEDURE IN SEPTEMBER.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE EC'S OWN REGULATIONS, US VESSELS SHOULD BE ENTITLED NOW TO LICENSES VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 31. CHANGE IN LICENSING PROCEDURES, HOWEVER, IS CONSISTENT WITH COMMISSION'S DESIRE TO HANDLE ALL ASPECTS OF EXTERNAL FISHERY POLICIES. (BELGIANS HAVE IN FACT SHOWN LITTLE RELISH FOR GETTING INVOLVED IN ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS OF LICENSING.) IF THE COMMISSION DOES, IN FACT, LIMIT PROCEDURE IN SEPTEMBER TO A SIMPLE PROCESS OF BLANKET REAPPROVAL OF BELGIAN LICENSES, WE SEE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM. MISSION INTENDS TO CONVEY TO COMMISSION OUR EXPECTATION THAT THEY WILL PURSUE SIMPLEST POSSIBLE PROCEDURES IN RE-ISSUING LICENSES IN SEPTEMBER. END COMMENT.
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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 09065 291859Z

4. JANSSEN INTRODUCED ADDITIONAL NEW ELEMENT INTO LICENSING QUESTION WHEN HE TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT INFORMATION ON ENGINE POWER WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED FOR SUBMISSION OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS. MISSION OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT NEITHER EC REGULATION (REFTEL C) NOR OFFICIALS (REFTEL B) HAVE SPECIFIED THIS REQUIREMENT TO DATE AND THAT, SINCE THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE U.S. HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE NEED FOR THIS INFORMATION, THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE ADDITIONAL DELAY IN COMPILING DATA, FURTHER SETTING BACK SUBMISSION OF LICENSE REQUESTS. JANSSEN RECOMMENDED THAT WE DISCUSS MATTER NEXT WEEK WITH COMMISSION OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF PROCESSING LICENSE APPLICATIONS (BATTERSBY--WHO IS OUT OF TOWN FOR LONG WEEKEND), POINTING OUT THAT DATA ON ENGINE POWER NOT REQUIRED BY REGULATION. WE WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF RESULT OF OUR TALKS WITH BATTERSBY. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, FISHING REGULATIONS, LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE09065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770272-1167
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977076/aaaaaeqn.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ee36d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 7531, 77 BRUSSELS 7167
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1868921
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FG, US, GY, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ee36d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009